



MEMORIAL DAY REMEMBRANCE: The community will honor veterans from every branch of the military during a special Memorial Day ceremony at 10 a.m. Monday, May 29 at the Gazebo at Main Square Park. Hear from local citizens about what Memorial Day means to them.

GAZEBO EXPRESS

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENT SOURCE FOR THE TOWN OF HIGHLAND • MAY 2017

A BRIGHT FUTURE

The town that evolved from sleepy farming community to a thriving residential haven for starter families in the years following World War II is on the move again. The Town Council/Redevelopment Commission is focusing first on projects that will infill some commercial corridors while transforming others.

PUBLIC WORKS RELOCATION

Discussion is getting serious about relocating Highland Public Works and the Sharp Athletic Complex.

Under the Town Council's review are several parcels in south and east Highland – 15 acres to 20 acres – large enough to accommodate an upscale town garage and green space.

The larger acreage could allow Sharp Athletic Complex to move with Public Works.

Council President Dan Vassar said the land on north Kennedy that houses Public Works could add significantly to the tax base. Property taxes paid by new businesses keep the rates stable or reduce them for everyone else.

"Every day we leave the town garage in its current location, we are missing the boat," Vassar said. "We have an opportunity to redefine the north Kennedy Corridor and a primary gateway to Highland. The highest and best use of this prime real estate is for commercial/retail development. It's something we need to act on now." 🐾

NEW HIGHLAND STREET SIGNS

Two major intersections are going to be decked out with illuminated signs from dark to dusk. Highway and Kennedy along with Fifth and Ridge will be the first to get the signs with the trademark Gazebo and white lettering. "The new street signs will add flavor and style to the community," Councilman Mark Herak said "They will also make it easier for visitors to find their way." 🐾

BILLBOARD & GREEN SPACE

View Outdoor Advertising would like to erect a billboard on north Indianapolis at the Stan's Bait Shop property. The company is offering to provide green space – at no cost – that could be beautified by the town.

"Lawyers for the town and View Outdoor Advertising are hammering out the details," Council President Dan Vassar said. "From what we've seen, this has the potential to be a great way for us to transform that gateway leading into town." 🐾

REDEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

The hunt is on for a new Redevelopment Director. Cecile Petro, who became the town's first full-time redevelopment director 12 years ago, will retire June 9.

Over the next several weeks, Council President Dan Vassar said he and his fellow councilors will be meeting with a consulting firm and create a job description tailored for the needs of the town.

The plan is to begin advertising for the new director in May and begin a search for the ideal candidate early summer.

"The ideal candidate will have broad experience with communities, such as Highland, and able to juggle numerous projects at once.

"We have been blessed and lucky to have had Cecile," Vassar said. "She balanced value-added programs with day-to-day redevelopment duties designed to make Highland better. Hers will be big shoes to fill." 🐾

CLASSIC CAR CRUISE

Calling all classic car enthusiasts! If you have a classic car or antique hot rod, join us for the Highland Main Street Car Cruise in downtown Highland. Cars may be registered onsite that afternoon. One lucky cruiser will walk away with the Van Sensus Auto Value Award and 10 others with Sponsor Choice Awards.

WHEN: 1-5 p.m. **JUNE 3.** Rain date **JUNE 4**

WHERE: Downtown Highland along Highway from Kennedy to Fifth.

INFO: Contact Lance Ryskamp at (219) 972-7598 or lryskamp@highland.in.gov.

MAY POP-UP GALLERY

Please join Highland Main Street for the next pop-up art gallery that will feature the talents of local artists Liz Mares and Carlene Chess. Refreshments will be served.

WHEN: 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. **MAY 18**

WHERE: First Midwest, 2842 Highway.

INFO: Hilco Real Estate is handling the sale of the Highway Avenue branch. Call 855-755-2300 for details.

HIGHWAY OF FLAGS

Highway of Flags is getting a spring makeover. Longtime resident Jack Vander Giessen and the memorial's designer Ross Gambriel are giving the monument at Ridge and US 41 a fresh coat of paint and a few cosmetic changes. Constructed in time for the Memorial Day remembrance in 1975, the colonnade honors members of the armed services who hail from the seven states U.S. 41 traverses – Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee, Georgia and Florida.

HIGHLAND MURALIST

Highland artist Jessica Haug will create a downtown mural inspired by the Heron Rookery. "Great Blues on Pink" was selected from a field of 32 designs submitted by 21 Northwest Indiana and Chicagoland artists. The public art project, expected to be complete by June 3, will be on the east wall of Miles Books, 2821 Jewett.

POLICE MEMORIAL

Please join Highland Police as they honor their fallen colleagues during an 8:30 a.m. inspection and a 9 a.m. memorial service at Sheppard Park.

The event honors Officers Donald R. Sheppard and Robert Markley, who were killed in the line of duty.

Sheppard was killed Nov. 12, 1971, during a gun fight with an escaped convict. Markley was killed by an intoxicated driver on March 10, 1978.

WHEN: 8:30 a.m. **MAY 13**

WHERE: Sheppard Park, 9217 Liable

INFO: Call Highland Police Officer Randall Stewart at (219) 838-3184.

CRIME WATCH MEETING

Learn about recent neighborhood trends at this month's crime watch.

WHEN: 6:30 p.m. **MAY 10**

WHERE: HPD Community Room

RESERVATIONS: Call Sgt. Shawn Anderson at (219) 838-3184 or email sanderson@highland.in.gov.

GET-WELL WISHES ...



ON THE MEND: Four months after being hit head-on in his squad car, Highland Police Officer John Swisher is on the mend. A recent graduate to a cane from crutches, Swisher sustained life-threatening injuries Dec. 10 when an intoxicated driver collided with his vehicle. In addition to daily therapy, Swisher (above right) has a regular lunch date with Cmdr. George Georgeff, Chief Pete Hojnicky and Asst. Chief Pat Vassar (left to right). "There isn't a week that goes by that we don't hear from a resident concerned to see how John is doing," Hojnicky said. "He is grateful for the many thoughtful cards and prayers that have been sent, which are aiding his recovery." [PHOTO PROVIDED]



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NEWS TIP? STORY IDEA?

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TOWN THEATRE DEMOLITION ON HOLD UNTIL RESTAURANT FINDS NEW HOME

Redevelopment Director Cecile Petro has been working overtime to help Maria's Buena Cocina find a new home.

Located near the Town Theatre in a building owned by the town, Maria Curiel's restaurant is caught between what was the Theatre District and a new vision for the property.

"We have been going through different buildings, mostly in the downtown, which is where we hope to stay," Curiel said. "It took time to get a good following of customers. We want to stay local for them – and for us."

Until that happens, plans are on hold for the razing of the Town Theatre and adjacent buildings, including Curiel's.

"We've had nice offers from Schererville and Griffith," she said. "We hope it doesn't come to that. We want to stay in Highland." 🐾

TOWN THEATRE BOARD

When the Town Theatre renovation became a nonstarter, members of the nonprofit Theatre Board had two options – stay or go.

The group decided to stay as a grassroots committee dedicated to supporting the arts within the community.

Theatre Board President Dawn Diamantopoulos said the new direction will include: scholarships for Highland graduates, support for local theatre productions and arts education opportunities, such as the Explorers program.

"We hope our residents will continue to support the arts through our organization," she said.

Those who became members during the group's fund-raising activities on behalf of the Town Theatre have two choices – leave their donation in place to support the arts or request a refund.

Details of the process will be forthcoming.

QUESTIONS? Message us on the Town Theatre FaceBook page: facebook.com/TownTheatre.



MIDWEEK music AND THE MARKET

The Outdoor Street Market and summer concerts are being combined into one fabulous Wednesday event.

Recreation Director Dave Byers said park staff tinkered with changes to the long-standing events to maximize everyone's time and better coordinate with other summer activities.

The bonus: Concert-goers can shop and shoppers can boogie. Everyone will have the opportunity to purchase made-to-order snacks and light meals while adults will, for the first time, have the option of enjoying concert-night beer gardens June 7, 14 and 21 as well as July 12 and 19.

Calling all vendors! We're looking for purveyors of fresh fruits, vegetables, cheeses, breads, spices, coffees, ready-to-eat food and more. Weekly rates begin at \$23.54.

INFO: (219) 838-0114

Market hours:
4 to 8 p.m.
Wednesdays
May 31 - Sept. 27

Main Street
entertainment:
5 to 7 p.m.

Summer
concerts:
7 to 9 p.m.

THE LINEUP

MAY 31

LACEY
Community Band

JUNE 7

Almond Grove
The Neverly Brothers

JUNE 14

Michelle Josephine Velez
Fast Eddie & the
Corvettes

JUNE 21

Gerry Hundt
Tropixplosion

JULY 12

Robert Rolfe Feddersen
Mason Rivers

JULY 19

Dennis, Andrew
& Michelle
New Odyssey

AUGUST 9

The Influence
The Class of '68

AUGUST 16

Michelle Josephine Velez
Flat Cats

AUGUST 23

The Sky at Night
Oscar & The Majestics

AUGUST 30

David Blixt
Danny Mateja & IPA
Tribute Band
Visit highland.in.gov
for a complete lineup
through Sept. 27.

NIRPC SURVEY TAKERS

The Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) is looking for volunteers to conduct personal surveys on the Erie-Lackawanna Trail. Part of the 2017 Indiana Trails Study, nine trails throughout Indiana will be closely researched, with data on users counts, preferences and economic impact being measured. NIRPC needs volunteers to work two-hour shifts three times of day — 7 to 9 a.m., noon to 2 p.m., and 5 to 7 p.m. NIRPC will provide training and all materials. Survey takers will be located at a trailhead or at a nearby grocery store to gauge a control group.

WHEN: 7-9 a.m., noon-2 p.m. and 5-7 p.m. the week of **MAY 29, JULY 24 and SEPTEMBER 25**

INTERESTED? Contact Mitch Barloga at NIRPC at mbarloga@nirpc.org.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Please join the Highland Historical Society for a special journey through time with Elmo Parlor, one of the town's foremost historians. A descendant of the town's first settlers — Michael and Judith Johnston — Parlor will share how he researches and documents the region's past as well as some of his incredible finds, which include photos collected through the decades. Those who attend are welcome to bring historical mementos to share. Refreshments will be served.

WHEN: 7 p.m. **MAY 25**

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center
INFO: Email Sue Douthett at highlandhistory@sbcglobal.net.

TOWN POET LAUREATE

Congratulations to Janine Harrison, who has been selected as Highland's Poet Laureate for 2017. The published poet has taught poetry, fiction and creative nonfiction at Purdue University Northwest for the last decade. Harrison was selected from a field of four applicants by a panel of judges who have degrees in English Literature and are published poets.

SCHOOL CAFETERIA JOBS

The Food Service Department of the School Town of Highland is accepting applications for part-time school cafeteria positions the 2017-2018 school year. This job calls for two to three hours per school day.

INFO: Apply at highland.k12.in.us.

COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE

Do you enjoy shopping for rare items, such as comic books, sports cards, Hot Wheels, autographs and other memorabilia? Roger Parker from P & P Collectibles will host the card show in conjunction with the Community Garage Sale, featuring household items, toys, books and more!

WHEN: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. **MAY 13**

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

VENDOR FEES: \$32.10 per 10' x 10' interior space or \$53.50 per 23' x 6' wall space. Tables, chairs, and extension cords are not provided.

INFO: highlandparks.org or (219) 838-0114

YOUTH TRACK & FIELD

This program is designed to benefit boys and girls of all talents and experiences. Team T-shirts included. Awards to top finishers. Volunteer assistants needed!

WHEN: 6 to 7:30 p.m. **JUNE 7 - AUGUST 2**

WHERE: Gavit High School outdoor track in Hammond. This is a temporary location for 2017 while Highland resurfaces its track.

FEE: \$50 residents / \$55 nonresidents

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: June 5

INFO: highlandparks.org or (219) 838-0114

GOTR 5K REGISTRATION

This Girls on the Run course begins at 41st Street and Farmer Drive. Runners will proceed down 41st to Liable, then to Lincoln, down the bike path to the HHS track.

WHEN: 8 a.m. Saturday, **MAY 20**

WHERE: Highland High School

FEE: \$15 kids under 16, \$20 adults through **MAY 16** and \$25 from **MAY 17-20**

ONLINE REGISTRATION: gotrofnwi.org.

INFO: Email Race Director Amy Kovacs at Amy.kovacs@girlsontherun.org.

10-WEEK SUMMER CAMP

Highland Parks and Recreation's summer camp engages kids - ages 5 to 12 - in games, crafts, songs, drama, sports activities and field trips. Register your child today for an out-of-this-world camp experience.

WHEN: 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Monday - Friday, **MAY 30 - AUGUST 4**. Pre-camp hours are from 7 - 8:30 a.m.

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

CAMP FEE: \$105/\$110 weekly, \$25/\$30 daily

PRE-CAMP FEE: \$30/\$35 weekly, \$6/\$7 daily

PARENT MEETING: 6 p.m. **MAY 30**

INFO: highlandparks.org or (219) 838-0114

SIX FLAGS GREAT AMERICA

Highland Parks has your ticket to summer fun: wild water slides and gravity-defying roller coasters at Six Flags Great America in Gurnee, IL.

TICKETS: \$46.50 for general admission tickets, \$78.75 for a season pass, \$34.50 for special Highland Parks and Recreation Week **JULY 1 - 9**

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

INFO: highlandparks.org or (219) 838-0114



Enjoy a family-friendly bicycle ride through Highland and Griffith. You choose one of four routes.

Texas Corral will provide lunch at the registration site to all participants.

Friends and family may join the riders for lunch for \$5. Bicycle raffle and tour T-shirts available for purchase.

WHEN: 11 a.m. Saturday, **JUNE 3**

WHERE: Check-in at 10 a.m. at Wicker Park Pavilion. The bike ride starts at 11 a.m. and lasts about 60 minutes. Cookout after riders return.

EARLY REGISTRATION:

\$15 per rider before May 26 includes lunch and drawstring bag.

\$5 children age 10 and under.

LATE REGISTRATION:

\$20 per rider May 27 through June 3 plus giveaways while supplies last

INFO: Registration brochures are available at Town Hall, Lincoln Center and the chamber office. Questions? Call (219) 923-3666 or email info@highlandchamber.com.

SUMMER THEATRE AUDITIONS

Calling all actors! Highland Parks & Recreation's Performing Arts Group is looking for actors for this summer's production of State Fair the Musical™ with performances scheduled in July and August. Bring a song to sing!

WHEN: 6 to 8 p.m. **MAY 22-23**.

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

INFO: highlandparks.org or (219) 838-0114

PRESCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

Join us for a presentation about our preschool program. Registration information for preschool and the Wiggles & Giggles program will be provided for parents of preschoolers ages 3-5. Program is free, but participants must register.

WHEN: 6 - 7 p.m. Wednesday, **MAY 15**

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: May 8

INFO: highlandparks.org or (219) 838-0114

FALL SOCCER REGISTRATION

Sign up to play soccer this fall in one of several age divisions: U8, U10, U12, U14, U16 and U19. Please bring a birth certificate to register.

WHEN: 9 a.m. - noon **MAY 20** and 1 - 4 p.m.

MAY 21 at Sheppard Park and 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

JUNE 3, 10, 17 at Lincoln Center.

FEE: \$75 in person or online, \$100 after **JUNE 18**.

Early birds save \$5. Nonresidents add \$5.

INFO: highlandsoccer.org

BUS TRIP TO CUBS GAME

Come out and watch the Chicago Cubs take on the St. Louis Cardinals this summer at Wrigley Field. Let Highland Parks and Recreation take care of the transportation and seating.

WHEN: 3:30 - 11:30 p.m. **JUNE 4**

WHERE: Wrigley Field

TICKETS: \$108 includes game ticket in Section 218-219, Row 22-23 and round-trip transportation. Limited tickets are available and can only be purchased in advance at the Lincoln Center.

TRANSPORTATION: School bus departs Lincoln Community Center at 3:30 p.m. and returns approximately 11:30 p.m.

NOTE: Attendees may be required to walk four blocks to the bus parking area after the game.

INFO: highlandparks.org or (219) 838-0114

ATHLETICS GOLF OUTING

It's time to register for the Annual Highland Athletic Department golf outing. Proceeds benefit the entire Highland Athletic Department.

WHEN: 11 a.m. shotgun start **JUNE 30**

WHERE: Wicker Park Golf Course

FEE: \$80 person/\$320 foursome includes golf, lunch and dinner.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: June 23

INFO: Contact Athletic Director Ryan Harrington at (219) 922-5611 or email rharrington@highland.k12.in.us.